

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on September 2, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, 8 and 10-20. Claims 1 and 11 are the independent claims. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 7, 17 and claims 10, 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response thereto, claims 7, 17, 10 and 20 have been amended to correct the matters noted by the examiner. It is therefore requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hino et al.* (US 6,002,906). Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference for at least the following reasons.

Applicant's amended independent claim 1 recites an image reading device, including a continuous reading controller switch and a control unit. The continuous reading controller switch is for receiving a continuous reading instruction of a user and outputting a control signal. The control unit is for controlling the image reading device and receiving the control signal to implement the continuous reading and outputting operations of the image reading device. When the continuous reading controller switch is **activated by the user**, the

control unit drives the image reading device to read a page of a packaged document placed at a reading position, and **after a time period predetermined by the control unit** to allow the scanned page to be turned over, another page of the packaged document placed at the reading position is then **continued to be read**. That is, this claimed invention only requires **one initial operation** by the user to perform the continuous reading of **a packaged document**, which has scanned pages that need to be turned over.

In contrast, *Hino et al.* teach that the ADF controller 302 controls the automatic document feeder to continuously and automatically feed documents supplied from the paper-supply tray one by one to the image reader. The documents are then discharged to a document discharge portion after the completion of the reading of the images (column 5, lines 10-12; and column 6, lines 23-28). That is, the ADF controller is applied to a pile of unpackaged papers for being supplied from the paper tray one by one.

However, *Hino et al.* fail to disclose a controller switch for receiving a continuous reading instruction and outputting a control signal to the control unit, as recited in claim 1.

Further, *Hino et al.* fail to disclose that when the continuous reading controller switch is activated by a user, the control unit drives the image reading device to read a page of a packaged document placed at a reading position, and that after a time period predetermined by the control unit to allow the scanned

page to be manually turned over by the user, another page of the packaged document placed at the reading position is continued to be read, as recited in claim 1.

Thus, whereas the packaged document read by the image reading device of the present invention has scanned pages which are adhered together and need to be turned over after being scanned, the documents of *Hino et al.* are unpackaged and separated to be supplied from the paper-supply tray with no need to be turned over so as to be continuously fed by automatic document feeder the ADF controller 302. This contrasts with the claimed invention in which only one initial operation is required by the user to perform a continuous reading process of a packaged document, such as a book, driven by only one operation.

It is therefore submitted that Applicant's independent claim 1, as well as the claims 2-6 dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by (or rendered obvious by) the cited reference. Moreover, the independent claim 11 includes features similar to those of claim 1, except that the subject matter thereof is a continuous reading controlling device. It therefore is submitted that independent claim 11, as well as its dependant claims 12-16, are patentable over the applied reference for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hino et al.* (US 6,002,906) in view of *Sawase et al.* (US 5,414,533). Because the cited secondary reference by *Sawase et al.* fail to

overcome the deficiencies of *Hino et al.*, it is submitted that these claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons advanced above as to the patentability of amended independent claim 1, from which these claims respectively depend, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

For example, the Examiner acknowledges that *Hino et al.* do not expressly disclose an audio-receiver for receiving the audio signal and outputting a reading signal to the control unit, but alleges that *Sawase et al.* disclose an audio-receiver for receiving the audio signal and outputting a reading signal to the control unit. However, *Sawase et al.* disclose an acoustic coupler 70, constituted by an audio amplifier 71, a speaker 72 and a microphone 73, is connected to the G3 modem 40. The image signal is first converted into the audio signal, and then the audio signal can be transmitted through telephone lines by connecting the speaker and the microphone to a handset of telephone 80. The audio signal converted from the image signal is output from the G2 modem 40 and monitored by outputting it from the speaker 72 (col. 5, lines 17-33). This contrasts with the claimed invention which requires an audio-receiver for receiving the audio signal and outputting a reading signal to said control unit to control the reading operation of the image reading device, as recited in claim 7, for example.

Thus, even if the teachings of *Hino et al.* and *Sawase et al.* were combined, the combination would not result in the claimed invention. It is therefore submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 8 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hino et al.* (US 6,002,906) in view of *Nagano et al.* (US 4,809,803). The cited secondary reference by *Nagano et al.* (US 4,809,803) is directed to an electrical drive system of a military vehicle. *Nagano et al.* fail to overcome the above deficiencies of *Hino et al.* and fail to disclose or suggest the additional features recited in claims 8 and 18 as explained as follows.

The Examiner acknowledges that *Hino et al.* fail to disclose a stepping controller but points to US 4,809,803 as teaching the stepping controller, wherein the user steps on the stepping controller to output a reading signal to the control unit for controlling the reading operation of the image reading device.

In response, applicant would respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position that a person of ordinary skill in the art would find it obvious to combine the above teaching of *Hino et al.* with those of *Nagano et al.* (US 4,809,803). There is no suggestion by *Hino et al.* or *Nagano et al.* to combine their teachings in any way. That is, there is no suggestion of any usefulness in applying the teachings of *Nagano et al.* to the image forming apparatus of *Hino et al.*

As such, it is submitted that that this rejection of claims 8 and 18 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 9 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hino et al.* in view of *Okisu et al.* (US 5,159,187). However, the cited secondary reference by *Okisu et al.* fail to overcome the deficiencies of *Hino et al.* It thus is submitted that claims 9 and 19 are patentably

distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as independent claims 1 and 11, from which these claims respectively depend. It is therefore submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

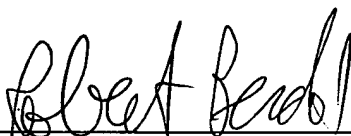
Based on the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims 1-20, is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

December 1, 2005
Date


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